

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1974

June 2021 Newsletter

WWW.FGMS.ORG

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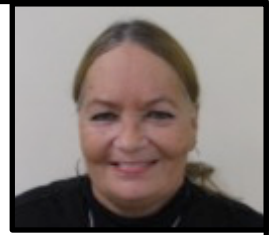
**Cover Photograph – Youngite from Wyoming
States Room FGMS Museum**

**All Photographs by Stacy Walbridge
Unless Otherwise Noted**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jane Morgan



May and June have been busy and it's just started

I would like to thank everyone that has pulled together to help at the Museum and at the outside events, as well as the ones that helped or contributed items for the yard sale and will work it on June 19th.

THANKS TO OUR:

Curator: Mark Lang

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert

Gift Shop Managers: Anamay Rossomando, Robby Morgan

Editor: Stacy Walbridge

Asst. Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge

Membership: Tom Parker & Diane Mason

Secretary: Susan Fritz

Publicity : George Fritz

Past President : Al Pribble

To Our VOLUNTEERS;

Thank you for really stepping up since the Museum opened. You have really come through for the club and Museum inside and out. It is really appreciated. Without ones like you this club would not succeed.

We still have a busy road ahead of us with more activities to come and we do NEED EVERYONE to help out. If you can't physically work then maybe you could make calls and schedule ones that can work. There are some things that you don't physically have to be down at the Museum to do.

Please be at the meetings so you can stay informed. I hope to see you there.

Jane

MAY 27th GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Susan Fritz, Secretary
Photographs by George Fritz

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Morgan on Thursday, 05/27/21, at 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church of Franklin.

Participants: Jane Morgan, Doug Morgan, Larry Ellert, Charlotte Frye, Anamay Rossomando, Ron Rossomando, Al Pribble, Marsha Harmon, Susan Fritz, George Fritz, Norm Holbert, John Hayes, Lee Bender, Ron Bischoff, Stephanie Brundage, Elena Marsh, Tom Marsh, Jay Mooney, Jenny Mooney, and guest Dan Portale.



Norman Holbert introduced his guest, Dan Portale, who is making a documentary on mining in this area. He is also interested in becoming a member.

Jane Morgan asked for a motion to accept the previous month's minutes as printed in the newsletter.

President – Jane Morgan reiterated that we need volunteer hosts. The museum will officially open in June (currently) on Fridays and Saturdays from 12 noon until 4 p.m.

Heritage Day – This weekend is Heritage Day downtown on Saturday, 05/29, with festivities starting at 9 a.m. Roads will be blocked off. The museum will be open for this event. We need volunteers at 8:00 a.m. for setup and to host at our outside table.

Museum Manager – Larry Ellert did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop Manager – Anamay Rossomando stated that the gift shop looks good.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon says we still need someone to take over this position and that she is more than happy to train anyone who may be interested.

Gem Shows – Norman Holbert reported that the Chamber of Commerce has all the rooms filled at the community building with vendors. We will require the usual volunteers

for set up, take down, hosting and demonstrations. Set up will be on Wednesday, July 21. This is a 4-day show: July 22, July 23, July 24 and July 25. Sign up sheets are at the museum or you can contact one of the officers to let them know if you can help. The Faceters Frolic will be held the same days at the Fun Factory.

Publicity – George Fritz stated the local radio station has a community calendar on FM and AM and he will be submitting information about the museum being open.

New Business:

Yard Sale - Saturday, June 19. Al Pribble noted that the church is advertising this as being presented by the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society. We discussed getting set up the night before or early Saturday morning. We can utilize the awnings that we already have.

Faceter Wanted – Lee Bender noted that the owner of Gallery of Gems is seeking a faceter.

Wearing of Masks: There was much discussion surrounding this issue at the recent Board meeting this week. It was



decided that a sign will be placed on the museum door: “Due to Confined Spaces, Masks are Preferred.” Jane Morgan reminded us to use common sense, most especially around young children who are unvaccinated but that it will be up to us to mask or not.

Jane Morgan reminded us to keep track of volunteer hours ~ the book for this is in the museum.

Susan Fritz reminded the membership that she is the Sunshine Lady and to please contact her if you know of anyone who is sick, hospitalized or if there may be another good reason to send them a note or a card.

Membership, paid/unpaid dues, and member participation was discussed.

There being no further business Norman Holbert made a motion for adjournment seconded by Marsha Harmon. Jane Morgan, president, adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

Diane Mason

May and June have been busy for the membership committee folks with the addition of several new members. WELCOME !! TO ONE AND ALL!! We also saw some of our old members renew and regain their memberships. We're starting to come out of the covid slump and are VERY happy to see this. Hopefully in the very near future there will once again be classes starting up. Thank you for your participation and patience with us during this trying time.

Please be aware that 2022 membership will be due in October.

Tom/Diane

HERITAGE DAY

Photos by George Fritz

We would like to thank all who volunteered, helped out, or just stopped by to say Hi for the hometown market day on Sat. June 5th.

A BIG THANKS to : Marsha, Mark, Jane, Larry, Ron B., Vicki, Stephanie, Stacy, Kathi, Ron R., Anamay, Susan, George, Fred, Dean, J.J., Norm, Elena, & anyone else I missed seeing.

We are so glad everyone is feeling a little more comfortable about coming out to help the club, you all made it a Huge Success.



Larry & Ron Taking a Break After Setting Up our Street Booth



**Marsha, Ron, and Mark Digging for Treasures
(C'mon Guys, It's for the Kids!)**



Larry Supervising the Cutting of a Geode



Early Morning Visitors on Main Street

Thank You for your encouragement & support.

Anamay

POISON IN THE MUSEUM

By Stacy Walbridge

When volunteers were busy cleaning the displays in the museum earlier this month I took the opportunity to photograph some of the specimens outside of their display cases. Jane Morgan and Marsha Harmon were in a corner of the States Room when I arrived and immediately spotted a striking yellow specimen from Nevada.

As I picked it up I noticed the label, "Arsenic". Thinking "Poison" and "Arsenic and Old Lace" I almost put it back to run and wash my hands but the color was too good to ignore.



Marsha Harmon and Jane Morgan Cleaning the Display Cases in the States Room



Arsenic Specimen From Nevada

Arsenic is neither a metal nor a non-metal but instead joins an ill-defined group of elements called the metalloids. Most metalloids occur in several forms where one might seem metallic while another one seems non-metallic. Arsenic doesn't seem much like a metal in its yellow form, but it also has a grey form known as metallic arsenic.

Arsenic gets its name from a Persian word for the yellow pigment now known as orpiment. Orpiment or yellow arsenic trisulphide is a historical pigment identified in ancient Egyptian artefacts

Yellow arsenic has a specific gravity of 1.97 while grey arsenic has a specific gravity of 5.73. Grey arsenic is the usual stable form with a melting point of 817 degree Celsius. Grey Arsenic is a very

brittle semi-metallic solid, steel grey in color that tarnishes readily in air. It's rapidly oxidized to arsenous oxide which smells of garlic if you are brave enough to smell it when you heat it.

In the days when deliberate arsenic poisoning remained a real threat and before the arrival of tests that could alert the authorities to its presence poisoning was sometimes diagnosed on the basis of a victim's garlic breath. In a curious twist, far more recently, researchers in India showed that eating 1 to 3 cloves of garlic a day could protect people from the arsenic poisoning associated with contaminated drinking water.

References:

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/podcasts/arsenic/3005697.article>

Wax Dopping Alternative

By Al Pribble & Stacy Walbridge

Some have found traditional wooden dowel dop sticks and wax to be awkward, messy, somewhat unreliable (popping off when wet?), and most of all, slow and time consuming. Dopping small stones on small diameter sticks is difficult enough but in addition it is hard to hold and control a small diameter stick (especially as we get older). Furthermore if you are one who wants to make cabochons for wire wrapping you may like to scribe a line around the perimeter for the intended girdle after you have established the outside shape. This requires de-mounting the stone, placing the stone on a flat surface, scribing the guide line around the edge and re-dop the stone to finish.



Preforms Ready For Dopping

Another technique used by many is to glue the stone to a flat head wood screw with epoxy or CA (Super glue) and screw it into 1/2" diameter wooden dowel, or to glue the stone directly onto wood, brass or aluminum dop sticks. That works after a fashion, but centering the pilot hole for the screw and / or getting it perpendicular in the end of the stick is a problem that most of us do not have the tools to accomplish. This method also requires several dops if you have more than one stone in progress at a time. Also, if the stones are glued right to the stick you have the problem of de-mounting the stone to

scribe the bezel height guide line around the stone and the problem of detaching the stone when finished.



One technique that I've found works pretty well is to super glue the stone to the head of a fluted masonry nail. A box of nails will cost about \$7, are reusable, and the flutes provide a good grip for controlling the stone on a wheel.

A scrap 2 x 4 makes a good stand to hold the nails while you glue the stone. 5/32" holes drilled halfway through the wood provides a tight fit to keep the nail steady while you're gluing. You can stagger the holes in the 2 x 4 to allow room for the different stone sizes and orientations. In this way you can have as many stones glued up at one time as you want, each on a separate nail.

But what about marking the girdle height? Well, a flat board or a piece of metal with a hole drilled to clear the head of the screw will allow you to place the stone flush and do the marking without removing it from the screw.

When the cabs are complete place the stone(s) with the nail attached into a sealed jar with a small amount of acetone to dissolve the CA or epoxy. You do not need to cover the stone, simply remaining in the sealed jar with the solvent will loosen it, but you may need a little more solvent to clean the screw head. Or if you're impatient use a small torch to heat the nail and the stone will pop right off.



Dopping Stand (bot.) and Marking Board (top)

Finished Cabs From West Texas Agates

Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase
***** 5 Shows Running Concurrently *****



- ⇒ **Macon County Gemboree, 1288 Georgia Road (7/23 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road (7/21 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Echo Valley Gem Show, 6456 Sylva Rd (7/21 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **G&LW Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, 6295 Sylva Road (7/22 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Faceters Frolic, 1024 Georgia Road (7/23 to 7/25)**



Anil B. Dholakia, Inc.
 Fine Gemstones & Jewelry
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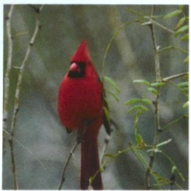


Varshana Dholakia GIA, GG
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June General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, June 24, 2021
The Magic of Jade
 by
John Hayes & Special Guests
 First Christian Church of Franklin
 156 Belleview Park Road
 Franklin, NC

June Board Meeting
6:30 pm Tuesday, June 22, 2021
 First Christian Church of Franklin
 156 Belleview Park Road
 Franklin, NC

Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina
Established 1974

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
 Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
 Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
 Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Treasurer: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
 Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
 Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
 Director (2020): Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Director (2020): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
 Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

The Club is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Museum Workshop: Virginia Bennis (631-830-5403)
 Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
 Museum Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
 Gemborees: TBD
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
 Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]



**July Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

